



Editorial

On behalf of the editorial board members, I am extremely delighted to present the current issue of *Mapana Journal of Sciences*, October –December 2019. I hope this issue disseminates new knowledge and practices that has evolved in different scientific disciplines. In this issue, there are six articles that have emphasised on environmental sustainability and socio-economic impact of microbial flora.

The first article of the issue, *Impact of Cropping Systems on Soil Microbial Load: Evidence from Wetland Ecosystems of Wayanad District Kerala* by P Asiya, Manjula Menon, Girigan Gopi and Vipin Das focusses on the impact of cropping systems on soil microbial load. In this study, the authors studied the microbial communities in soil samples collected from paddy, banana and arecanut cultivations in the wetlands of Wayanad district, Kerala. The authors reported that the total viable bacterial and fungal count in the paddy, banana and arecanut was higher, due to the change in cropping system. This finding will provide further insights on the effect of change in cropping system in wetland ecosystems.

The second article, *Efficiency of Natural Biological Adsorbents to Remove Pollutants from Textile, Dye and Printing Industry Effluent* by Priyadarshini Pillai focusses on treatment of industrial effluents using natural adsorbents such as *Areca catechu*, *Moringa pterygosperma*, *Quercus infectoria* and *Tamarindus indica*. As per the data reported by the authors, by applying natural resources, the toxic effluents emitted from various industries can be treated.

The third article, *Effect of Media Strength and pH on the Growth of Hairy Roots and Production of Gymnemic Acid from *Gymnema Sylvestre** by Praveen N and I M Chung elucidates the effect of media strength and pH on the growth of hairy roots and production of gymnemic acid from *Gymnema sylvestre*.

The fourth article focusses on the socio-economic impact of adoption of recommended milking practices among dairy farmers. In the study, *Socio-economic Profile and Adoption of Recommended Milking Practices among Small Dairy Farmers of Meenangadi Gramapanchayath of Wayanad District of Kerala* by P Asiya and Girigan Gopi, the authors selected dairy farmers of Meenangadi panchayat of Wayanad, Kerala. The study result revealed

that among the respondents, 46 per cent were above 50 years of age, 60 per cent had gone to upper primary school. Thirty-eight percentage of the respondents were utilising fourteen clean milking facilities suggested by the animal husbandry department of the state.

The fifth article of this issue, *In-Vitro Antagonistic Activity of Plant Extract on Fusarium Species* by P Asiya, P R Sreeraj, Joseph John and P B Ramya presents observations on plant protection chemicals and their effects. The researchers found that botanicals function as a better biocontrol agent.

The sixth article of the issue, *Earthworm Population in Relation to Different Agro Climatic Regions of Wayanad District of Kerala* by Joseph John, P R Sreeraj, P Asiya, P Kathireswari, Rini Joseph and Jijo George focusses on the earthworm population in relation to different agro climatic regions. In this study, authors collected and identified fifteen earthworm species from Wayanad district during 2017 to 2018. Among these *Dravida thomasi* and *Amyntas cortices* species were new to Wayanad.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the authors and reviewers for their contribution and the readers for their support and constructive criticism. We look forward to our collective continuing efforts to evolve and develop Mapana—*Journal of Sciences* and promoting the exciting findings for researchers around the globe.

Erumalla Venkatanagaraju

Issue Editor